

Remarks

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1-3, 7-11 and 15-20 stand rejected. Claims 4-6 and 12-14 are objected to but contain allowable subject matter. By this amendment claims 1, 5, 9 and 13 have been amended. Claims 4, 12 and 17-20 have been canceled. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-3, 5-11 and 13-16 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that said claims be passed to issuance.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to claims 4-6 and 12-14 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and indicated they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include the limitations of canceled dependent claim 4. Claims 2, 3 and 7-8 are dependent on claim 1 as amended. Therefore claims 1-3 and 7-8 are in condition for allowance and may be passed to issuance.

Applicants have amended claim 5 to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 6 is dependent on claim 5 as amended. Therefore claims 5 and 6 are in condition for allowance and may be passed to issuance.

Applicants have amended claim 9 to include the limitations of canceled dependent claim 12. Claims 10, 11 and 14-16 are dependent on claim 9 as amended. Therefore claims 9-11 and 13-16 are in condition for allowance and may be passed to issuance.

Applicants have amended claim 13 to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 14 is dependent on claim 13 as amended. Therefore claims 13 and 14 are in condition for allowance and may be passed to issuance.

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Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted the application may be passed to issuance.

The Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at the number listed below if, in the Examiner's opinion, such a phone conference would aid in furthering the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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